

# EXHIBIT 1

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, EASTERN DIVISION**

MARY WEBB, JOSEPH BERKOSKI, and )  
STACY PLUEBELL, individually and on )  
behalf of a class of similarly situated individuals, )

Plaintiffs,

V.

CLEVERBRIDGE, INC., a Delaware corporation, )  
and CLEVERBRIDGE AG, a German company, )  
and UNIBLUE SYSTEMS, LTD., a Maltese )  
company, )

Defendants.

Case No. 1:11-cv-04141

Hon. Joan H. Lefkow

## DECLARATION OF RAFEY S. BALABANIAN

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2746, I hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and am fully competent to make this declaration. I make this declaration based upon personal knowledge unless otherwise indicated.

2. I am a Partner at the law firm of Edelson McGuire LLC, and, along with other attorneys at my firm (collectively “Class Counsel”), have been appointed Settlement Class Counsel by this Court pursuant to its Order granting preliminary approval of the Class Action Settlement.

3. Beginning in the middle of 2010, Class Counsel began a wide-ranging investigation into perceived discrepancies between the advertised and actual functionality of Uniblue's software, which was being distributed by the cleverbridge Defendants.

4. During the course of that investigation, Class Counsel conducted a long-term study of customers' experiences with Defendants' software products, which included the

examination of dozens of complaints from Defendants' customers, and several customer interviews.

5. To assist in the investigation, Class Counsel engaged a computer forensics expert who, over the course of several months, performed a series of independent tests. Those tests were completed in a virtually simulated environment to ensure complete control of extraneous variables, and included: determining the source of errors detected by Defendants' software; verifying whether errors identified by Defendants' software were in fact causing the user's computer to perform poorly; viewing timestamps (benchmarks informing the software whether/when to indicate additional errors) placed on the user's computer by Defendants' software to evaluate whether errors were artificially inflated; installing, uninstalling, and re-installing Defendants' software on a brand new computer system to determine whether false positives were detected; and contrasting errors detected pre-registration (i.e., before purchase of Defendants' software) with errors identified post-registration.

6. After reviewing the results of the expert's investigation detailed above and assessing them against Defendants' representations about the software's utility, Class Counsel determined that the expert's findings were consistent with consumer complaints they had reviewed.

7. Beginning in July 2011, Class Counsel and counsel for the cleverbridge Defendants then began discussing the potential for resolution of the case as between them.

8. As part of these discussions, Class Counsel and counsel for cleverbridge met at the Chicago offices of SNR Denton, and committed to informally exchanging information in hopes of narrowing the factual and legal issues in dispute. Uniblue was invited to take part in the discussions, but it declined at that time.

9. On September 16, 2011, following the filing of Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint, Class Counsel and counsel for the cleverbridge Defendants then met at the Chicago offices of Edelson McGuire. At that meeting, Class Counsel presented their forensic expert's findings with respect to the software and the cleverbridge Defendants responded to Class Counsel's findings. The parties also exchanged their views on various potential settlement structures.

10. Plaintiffs and the cleverbridge Defendants were eventually able to reach a settlement in principle on class wide relief (the "Initial Settlement"). Negotiations on attorneys' fees and incentive awards did not begin until after they reached a complete agreement on class relief. Those negotiations took place over the course of the next month and it was not until December 30, 2011 that they reached agreement on attorneys' fees and incentive awards.

11. Before submitting the Settlement Agreement to the Court for preliminary approval, Class Counsel again invited Uniblue to discuss the possibility of a global settlement. Uniblue rejected that invitation, and, on January 6, 2012, filed a Motion to Dismiss for Improper Venue and Lack of Personal Jurisdiction.

12. At the preliminary approval hearing, Uniblue objected to the proposed class action settlement, arguing, *inter alia*, that approval would adversely affect their rights to contribution and set off. Nevertheless, the Court granted preliminary approval of the Initial Settlement but instructed the Parties to explore the possibility of a global settlement that would include Uniblue before sending out the Class Notice.

13. Immediately following the July 12, 2012 hearing, all Parties re-doubled their efforts to reach a global settlement agreement, and over the next several weeks, counsel for the Parties engaged in numerous in-person meetings and conference calls.

14. Notwithstanding Uniblu's denial of any wrongdoing, and with negotiations breaking down at several points, the Parties were eventually able to reach a global agreement in principle that improved the relief to the Settlement Class and included Uniblu.

15. Class Counsel have conducted a thorough investigation into the facts and legal issues of the instant case and, while confident in the strength of Plaintiffs' case, believe that continued litigation posed significant risks to the Plaintiffs' and the Class Members' claims. Specifically, as Plaintiffs allege that the marketing and design of Defendants' software products were purposefully deceptive and intentionally misleading, continued litigation would necessarily involve an examination of the following issues, which are undoubtedly complex: (i) whether the software at issue had the ability to perform as marketed, (ii) whether Defendants' marketing representations were misleading or inaccurate, (iii) whether Defendants purposefully designed its software to deceive consumers into purchasing its products, and (iv) whether Defendants' conduct was knowing and willful. Moreover, this area of law is uncertain.

16. Further, while Class Counsel believes that Plaintiffs' claims based on unfair and deceptive business practices have a high likelihood of succeeding on the merits, the evidence and expert opinions required to substantiate these claims would be highly complex. For instance, establishing that Defendants' products do not perform as advertised poses many challenges, as the technology and algorithms utilized in the software are highly complex and sophisticated. Likewise, establishing that Defendants' conduct was willful, i.e., that Defendants intentionally designed and marketed the software to artificially exaggerate the number of problems present on a user's computer, is far from certain. Although Class Counsel's extensive investigation into this case supports the existence of the alleged unfair and deceptive business practices, Defendants have at all times denied these allegations and there is little doubt that they would engage in a

vigorous defense.

17. Moreover, without the Settlement, the expense, duration and complexity of prolonged litigation would be substantial and incredibly burdensome for all Parties. Significant costs would necessarily be incurred were this matter to proceed to trial, including expenses for expert witnesses, technical consultants, and myriad other costs necessitated by the trial of a class action. Further, evidence and witnesses from across the country would have to be assembled as cleverbridge AG is headquartered in Germany and Uniblue is located in Malta. Given the complexity of the factual and legal issues, as well as the amount in controversy, the defeated party would likely appeal.

18. In comparison, with only a minimal showing, the Settlement offers each Class Member a \$12.50 cash payment simply by submitting an easy to complete claim form. In contrast, even if the case were successful at trial, the issue of damages would still remain uncertain. Defendants would argue (and Plaintiff would likely concede) that the software still had some value, even if not the full purchase price they were charging. In recognition of the this argument, Class Counsel estimates that, based on market prices, each Class Member likely would be found to have suffered between \$15.00 and \$18.00. The \$12.50 cash payments, then, represent between 69.44% and 83.33% of what Plaintiffs and the Class reasonably could have expected to achieve should they prevail at trial.

19. Accordingly, based on their significant experience serving as class counsel in class actions of similar size, scope and complexity to the instant action—including nearly a dozen cases involving fraudulent software marketed and sold by Defendants' industry competitors (*See* Edelson McGuire LLC Firm Resume, a true and accurate copy of which is attached hereto as Ex. 1-A.)—Class Counsel believes that the result achieved for the Settlement

Class here is fair, reasonable, and adequate under Rule 23. Moreover, faced with the prospect of receiving nothing, and at all times being pitted against highly-experienced defense counsel who promised to mount a formidable defense, Class Counsel are confident that the \$12.50 cash payment, in addition to the prospective relief, is an exceptional result for Plaintiffs and the Class.

20. The fee arrangements between Class Counsel and Plaintiffs contain a contingency fee arrangement whereby Class Counsel would receive up to one-third of the total recovery, or a percentage of the fund, plus the costs of the suit.

21. Class Counsel's \$1,200,000.00 fee request represents 21.8% of the \$5,500,000.00 Settlement Fund, which is lower than the amount of fees often awarded in similar litigation and based on market rates. Additionally, and as reflected in the chart below, as of November 29, 2012, Class Counsel have expended over 1,645.5 hours in uncompensated time in litigating and then bringing this case to settlement, and have a total adjusted lodestar of \$1,679,298.27.

ATTORNEY (POSITION)	RATE	HOURS	TOTAL
Jay Edelson (Managing Partner)	\$630	116.1	\$73,143.00
Rafey S. Balabanian (Partner)	\$500	289.5	\$144,750.00
Steven Woodrow (Partner)	\$500	108.0	\$90,000.00
Ari J. Scharg (Associate)	\$365	492.1	\$179,616.50
Benjamin H. Richman (Associate)	\$345	87.3	\$30,118.50
Eve-Lynn J. Rapp (Associate)	\$345	53.6	\$18,492.00
Chandler Givens (Associate)	\$295	413.2	\$121,894.00
Law Clerks	\$215	75.7	\$16,275.50
<b>EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$5,008.77</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,635.5</b>	<b>\$679,298.27</b>

The above attorney time is adjusted inasmuch as we exercised billing judgment, resulting in a

reduction of lodestar by 5%.

22. The attorney rates listed above are the same as those charged to hourly clients and are comparable to (or less than) those charged for attorneys with similar backgrounds and experience. These rates have been approved as reasonable by several judges in this District as well as in other federal courts throughout the country in other class action litigation.

23. The fees requested by Class Counsel represent a reasonable multiplier of 1.77. This multiplier reflects the fact that occasionally, certain cases are unsuccessful and fail to realize any return on investment of time and out-of-pocket expenses. Such uncompensated hours expended by Class Counsel in reaching the Settlement included:

- briefing nine motions and attending their respective hearings, including two motions for class certification, a motion to strike, a motion to dismiss, supplemental briefing on whether Maltese law allows class actions (as Uniblu asserted Malta as the proper venue in its motion to dismiss), and two motions for preliminary approval of the settlement;
- engaging in nearly one year of on-going and contentious settlement discussions, including several in-person meetings;
- conducting substantial informal discovery, including an in-person deposition on July 29, 2012;
- retaining counsel in Malta to research legal issues raised in Uniblu's motion to dismiss (as Uniblu asserted Malta as the proper venue in its motion); and
- drafting two comprehensive settlement agreements, including class notices and several declarations.

In my estimation, the expenditure of time in this case has been reasonable and necessary.

24. Moreover, in this case, Class Counsel's fronting of attorney time and costs of litigation on a fully contingent basis was especially risky because Class Counsel needed to gather evidence and witnesses from across the world—cleverbridge AG is headquartered in Germany and Uniblu is located in Malta—and there were concerns about the continued viability of each

Defendant, as well as the ability to ultimately collect a judgment from them.

25. Lastly, were it not for the Class Representatives' efforts and contributions to the litigation, Class Counsel would not have been able to reach a settlement for the benefit of the Class. Specifically, the Class Representatives (i) communicated at length with Class Counsel regarding the factual development of the case and their personal experiences with Defendants, (ii) reviewed documents filed and exchanged by the Parties, including the Complaint, settlement agreements, and other documents, and likewise were consulted on the accuracy of the statements made in these documents and the veracity of the claims, and (iii) prepared informal discovery answers. As such, the Class Representatives were integral in assisting Class Counsel with this case and eventually reaching the instant Settlement.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 29th Day of November, 2012 at Chicago, Illinois.

/s/ Rafey S. Balabanian

# EXHIBIT 1-A

## **EDELSON MCGUIRE, LLC FIRM RESUME**

EDELSON MCGUIRE, LLC is a plaintiff's class action and commercial litigation firm with attorneys in Illinois, Colorado and California.

Our attorneys have been recognized as leaders in these fields by state and federal legislatures, national and international media groups, the courts, and our peers. Our reputation for leadership in class action litigation has led state and federal courts to appoint us lead counsel in many high-profile class action suits, including the recent Thomas the Tank Engine lead paint class actions, the AT&T mobile content class actions, the home equity credit reduction cases, and privacy class actions involving T-Mobile, Facebook, and Netflix. We have testified before the United States Senate on class action issues and have repeatedly been asked to work on federal and state legislation involving cellular telephony, privacy and other issues. Our attorneys have appeared on dozens of national and international television and radio programs to discuss our cases and class action and consumer protection issues more generally. Our attorneys speak regularly at seminars on consumer protection and class action issues, lecture on class actions at law schools and are asked to serve as testifying experts in cases involving class action and consumer issues.

### **PLAINTIFFS' CLASS AND MASS ACTION PRACTICE GROUP**

EDELSON MCGUIRE is a leader in plaintiffs' class and mass action litigation, with a particular emphasis on technology class actions, and has been called a "class action 'super firm'" by a national organization. (Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Spring 2010.) As has been recognized by federal courts, our firm has an "extensive histor[y] of experience in complex class action litigation, and [is a] well-respected law firm[] in the plaintiffs' class action bar." *In re Pet Food Prod. Liab. Litig.*, MDL Dkt. No. 1850, No. 07-2867 (NLH) (D.N.J. Nov. 18, 2008). A leading arbitrator concurred: "The proof of [the firm's] experience, reputation, and abilities is extraordinary. . . . Each [of their cases] elaborates on the experience and unique success [they] have had in achieving leading roles in the area of 'technology consumer protection class actions.'" (Arbitration award in mobile content class action settlement, August 6, 2009) In appointing EDELSON MCGUIRE interim co-lead in one of the most high profile cases in the country, a federal court pointed to our ability to be "vigorous advocates, constructive problem-solvers, and civil with their adversaries." -*In Re JPMorgan Chase Home Equity Line of Credit Litig.*, No. 10 C 3647 (N.D.Ill, July 16, 2010).

We have been specifically recognized as "pioneers in the electronic privacy class action field, having litigated some of the largest consumer class actions in the country on this issue." *In re Facebook Privacy Litig.*, No. C 10-02389 (N.D.Cal) (order appointing EDELSON MCGUIRE interim co-lead of privacy class action); see also *In re Netflix Privacy Litigation*, 5:11-cv-00379 (N.D.Cal. Aug. 12, 2011) (appointing EDELSON MCGUIRE sole lead counsel due, in part, to its "significant and particularly specialized expertise in electronic privacy litigation and class actions[.]")

We have several sub-specialties within our plaintiffs' class and mass action practice group:

**Consumer Technology Class Actions:** We have established the key precedent under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act concerning text message spam, resulting in multiple eight figure settlements in recent years. We have prosecuted over 100 cases involving mobile content, settling numerous nationwide class actions, including against industry leader AT&T Mobility, collectively worth over a hundred million dollars.

**Representative Settlements:**

- *McFerren v. AT&T Mobility, LLC*, No. 08-CV-151322 (Fulton County Sup. Ct., GA): Lead counsel class action settlement involving 16 related cases against largest wireless service provider in the nation. “No cap” settlement provided virtually full refunds to a nationwide class of consumers who alleged that unauthorized charges for mobile content were placed on their cell phone bills.
- *Paluzzi v. Cellco Partnership*, No. 07 CH 37213 (Cook County, Illinois): Lead counsel in class action settlement involving 27 related cases alleging unauthorized mobile content charges. Case settled for \$36 million.
- *Lozano v. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox*, No. 09-cv-05344 (N.D.Ill): Lead counsel in class action alleging that defendants violated federal law by sending unsolicited text messages to cellular telephones of consumers. Case settled for \$16 million.
- *Gray v. Mobile Messenger Americas, Inc.*, No. 08-CV-61089 (S.D. Fla.): Lead counsel in case alleging unauthorized charges were placed on cell phone bills. Case settled for \$12 million.
- *Parone v. m-Qube, Inc.* No. 08 CH 15834 (Cook County, Illinois): Lead counsel in class action settlement involving over 2 dozen cases alleging the imposition of unauthorized mobile content charges. Case settled for \$12.254 million.
- *Rojas v CEC*, No. 1:10-cv-05260 (N.D.Ill): Lead counsel in class action alleging that defendants violated federal law by sending unsolicited text messages to cellular telephones of consumers. Case settled for \$19,999,400.
- *Kramer v. B2Mobile, et al*, No. 0-cv-02722-CW (N.D.Cal.): Lead counsel in class action alleging that defendants violated federal law by sending unsolicited text messages to cellular telephones of consumers. Case settled for \$12.2 million.
- *Satterfield v. Simon & Schuster*, No. C 06 2893 CW (N.D. Cal.). Co-lead counsel in class action alleging that defendants violated federal law by sending unsolicited text messages to cellular telephones of consumers. Case settled for \$10 million.
- *Williams, et al. v. Motricity, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 09 CH 19089 (Cook

County, Illinois): Lead counsel in class action settlement involving 24 cases alleging the imposition of unauthorized mobile content charges. Case settled for \$9 million.

- *VanDyke v. Media Breakaway, LLC*, No. 08 CV 22131 (S.D. Fla.): Lead counsel in class action settlement alleging unauthorized mobile content charges. Case settled for \$7.6 million.
- *Weinstein, et al. v. Airt2me, Inc.*, Case No. 06 C 0484 (N.D. Ill): Co-lead counsel in class action alleging that defendants violated federal law by sending unsolicited text messages to cellular telephones of consumers. Case settled for \$7 million.
- *Gresham v. Cellco Partnership*, No. BC 387729 (Los Angeles Sup. Ct.): Lead counsel in case alleging unauthorized charges were placed on cell phone bills. Settlement provided class members with full refunds.
- *Duffy v. Nevis Mobile, LLC*, No. 08 CH 21376 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Class counsel in certified class action against mobile content provider for unauthorized mobile content charges resulting in default judgment over \$10 million.
- *Zurakov v. Register.com*, No. 01-600703 (New York County, NY): Co-lead counsel in a class action brought on behalf of an international class of over one million members against Register.com for its deceptive practices in registering Internet domain names. Settlement required Register.com to fully disclose its practices and provided the class with relief valued in excess of \$17 million.

**Privacy/Data Loss Class Actions:** We have litigated numerous class actions involving issues of first impression against Facebook, Apple, Netflix, Sony, Red Box, Pandora, Sears, Storm 8, Google, T-Mobile, Microsoft and others involving the failure to protect customers' private information, some resulting from security breaches.

**Representative Cases:**

- *In re Netflix Privacy Litigation*, 5:11-cv-00379 (N.D.Cal.): Sole lead counsel in suit alleging that defendant violated the Video Privacy Protection Act by illegally retaining customer viewing information. \$9 million dollar cy pres settlement has been preliminarily approved.
- *In re Facebook Privacy Litigation*, 10-cv-02389 (N.D. Cal.): Appointed co-lead counsel in suit alleging that Facebook unlawfully shared its users' sensitive personally identifiable information with Facebook's advertising partners.
- *Standiford v. Palm*, No. 5:09-cv-05719-LHK (N.D. Cal.): Sole lead counsel in data loss class action, resulting in \$640,000 settlement.

- *In re Zynga Privacy Litigation*, 10-cv-04680 (N.D. Cal.): Appointed co-lead counsel in suit against gaming application designer for the alleged unlawful disclosure of its users' personally identifiable information to advertisers and other third parties.
- *Gaos v. Google*, 10-cv-04809 (N.D. Cal.): Part of a team of attorneys in suit alleging that Google unlawfully disclosed its users' search queries to website owners and other third parties.
- *In re Sidekick Litig.*, No. C 09-04854-JW (N.D. Cal.): Co-lead counsel in cloud computing data loss case against T-Mobile and Microsoft. Settlement provided the class with potential settlement benefits valued at over \$12 million.
- *Abrams v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. 07-05378 (N.D. Cal.): Lead counsel in injunctive settlement concerning the transmission of allegedly unauthorized mobile content.
- *Desantis v. Sears*, 08 CH 00448 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Lead counsel in injunctive settlement alleging national retailer allowed purchase information to be publicly available through the internet.

***Products Liability Class Actions:*** We have been appointed lead counsel in state and federal products liability class settlements, including a \$30, million settlement resolving the "Thomas the Tank Engine" lead paint recall cases and a \$32 million settlement involving the largest pet food recall in the history of the United States and Canada.

**Representative Settlements:**

- *Barrett v. RC2 Corp.*, No. 07 CH 20924 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Co-lead counsel in lead paint recall case involving Thomas the Tank toy trains. Settlement is valued at over \$30 million and provided class with full cash refunds and reimbursement of certain costs related to blood testing.
- *In re Pet Food Products Liability Litig.*, No. 07-2867 (D. N.J.): Part of mediation team in class action involving largest pet food recall in United States history. Settlement provided \$24 million common fund and \$8 million in charge backs.

***Banking Class Actions:*** EDELSON MCGUIRE has been at the forefront of class action litigation arising in the aftermath of the federal bailouts of the banks. Its suits include claims that the certain banks unlawfully suspended home credit lines based on pre-textual reasons, and that certain banks have failed to honor loan modification programs. EDELSON MCGUIRE achieved the first federal appellate decision in the country recognizing the right of borrowers to enforce HAMP trial plans under state law. The court noted that "Prompt resolution of this matter is

necessary not only for the good of the litigants but for the good of the Country." *Wigod v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 673 F.3d 547, 586 (7th Cir. 2012) (Ripple, J., concurring).

**Representative Cases:**

- *Hamilton v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 4:09-cv-04152-CW (N.D. Cal.). Lead counsel in class actions challenging Wells Fargo's suspensions of home equity lines of credit. Nationwide settlement restores access to over \$1 billion in credit and provides industry leading service enhancements and injunctive relief.
- *In re JP Morgan Chase Bank Home Equity Line of Credit Litig.*, 10-cv-3647 (N.D. Ill.): Court appointed interim co-lead counsel in nationwide putative class action alleging illegal suspensions of home credit lines.
- *Levin v. Citibank, N.A.*, C-09-0350 MMC (N.D. Cal.): Court appointed interim co-lead counsel in nationwide putative class action alleging illegal suspensions of home credit lines. Preliminarily-approved settlement restores hundreds of millions of dollars in credit in addition to cash payments.
- *Wigod v. Wells Fargo*, No. 10-cv-2348 (N.D.Ill.): suing to enforce HAMP trial plans.
- Settled numerous consumer class actions alleging fraud or other unconscionable behavior by banks and other lenders.

**General Consumer Protection Class Actions:** We have successfully prosecuted countless class action suits against computer software companies, technology companies, health clubs, dating agencies, phone companies, debt collectors, and other businesses on behalf of consumers.

**Representative Settlements:**

- *Van Tassell v. UMG*, No. 1:10-cv-2675 (N.D.Ill): Lead counsel in negative option marketing class action. Case settled for \$2.85 million.
- *McK Sales Inc. v. Discover Bank*, No. 1:10-cv-02964 (N.D.Ill): Lead counsel in class action alleging deceptive marketing aimed at small businesses. Case settled for \$6 million.
- *Farrell v. OpenTable*, No 3:11-cv-01785-si (N.D.Cal.): Lead counsel in gift certificate expiration case. Settlement netted class over \$3 million in benefits.

- *Ducharme v. Lexington Law*, No. 10-cv-2763-crb (N.D.Cal): Lead counsel in CROA class action. Settlement resulted in over \$6 million of benefits to the class.
- *Drymon v. Cyberdefender*, No. 11 CH 16779 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Lead counsel in class action alleging that defendant deceptively designed and marketed its computer repair software. Case settled for \$9.75 million.
- *Pulcini v. Bally Total Fitness Corp.*, No. 05 CH 10649 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Co-lead counsel in four class action lawsuits brought against two health clubs and three debt collection companies. A global settlement provided the class with over \$40 million in benefits, including cash payments, debt relief, and free health club services.
- *Kozubik v. Capital Fitness, Inc.*, 04 CH 627 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Co-lead counsel in state-wide suit against a leading health club chain, which settled in 2004, providing the over 150,000 class members with between \$11 million and \$14 million in benefits, consisting of cash refunds, full debt relief, and months of free health club membership.
- *Kim v. Riscuity*, No. 06 C 01585 (N.D. Ill): Co-lead counsel in suit against a debt collection company accused of attempting to collect on illegal contracts. The case settled in 2007, providing the class with full debt relief and return of all money collected.
- *Jones v. TrueLogic Financial Corp.*, No. 05 C 5937 (N.D. Ill): Co-lead counsel in suit against two debt collectors accused of attempting to collect on illegal contracts. The case settled in 2007, providing the class with approximately \$2 million in debt relief.
- *Fertelmeyster v. Match.com*, No. 02 CH 11534 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Co-lead counsel in a state-wide class action suit brought under Illinois consumer protection statutes. The settlement provided the class with a collective award with a face value in excess of \$3 million.
- *Cioe v. Yahoo!, Inc.*, No. 02 CH 21458 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Co-lead counsel in a state-wide class action suit brought under state consumer protection statutes. The settlement provided the class with a collective award with a face value between \$1.6 million and \$4.8 million.

***Insurance Class Actions:*** We have prosecuted and settled multi-million dollar suits against J.C. Penney Life Insurance for allegedly illegally denying life insurance benefits under an unenforceable policy exclusion and against a Wisconsin insurance company for terminating the health insurance policies of groups of self-insureds.

### **Representative Settlements:**

- *Holloway v. J.C. Penney*, No. 97 C 4555, (N.D. Ill.): One of the primary attorneys in a multi-state class action suit alleging that the defendant illegally denied life insurance benefits to the class. The case settled in or around December of 2000, resulting in a multi-million dollar cash award to the class.
- *Ramlow v. Family Health Plan* (Wisc. Cir. Ct., WI): Co-lead counsel in a class action suit challenging defendant's termination of health insurance to groups of self-insureds. The plaintiff won a temporary injunction, which was sustained on appeal, prohibiting such termination and eventually settled the case ensuring that each class member would remain insured.

**Mass/Class Tort Cases:** Our attorneys were part of a team of lawyers representing a group of public housing residents in a suit based upon contamination related injuries, a group of employees exposed to second hand smoke on a riverboat casino, and a class of individuals suing a hospital and national association of blood banks for failure to warn of risks related to blood transfusions.

### **Representative Cases:**

- *Aaron v. Chicago Housing Authority*, 99 L 11738, (Cir. Ct. Cook County, IL): Part of team representing a group of public housing residents bringing suit over contamination-related injuries. Case settled on a mass basis for over \$10 million.
- *Januszewski v. Horseshoe Hammond*, No. 2:00CV352JM (N.D. Ind.): Part of team of attorneys in mass suit alleging that defendant riverboat casino caused injuries to its employees arising from exposure to second-hand smoke.

The firm's cases regularly receive attention from local, national, and international media. Our cases and attorneys have been reported in the Chicago Tribune, USA Today, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the LA Times, by the Reuters and UPI news services, and BBC International. Our attorneys have appeared on numerous national television and radio programs, including ABC World News, CNN, Fox News, NPR, and CBS Radio, as well as television and radio programs outside of the United States. We have also been called upon to give congressional testimony and other assistance in hearings involving our cases.

## **GENERAL COMMERCIAL LITIGATION**

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Our attorneys have handled a wide range of general commercial litigation matters, from partnership and business-to-business disputes, to litigation involving corporate takeovers. We have handled cases involving tens of thousands of dollars to "bet the company" cases involving up to hundreds of millions of dollars. Our attorneys have collectively tried hundreds of cases, as well as scores of arbitrations and mediations. All of our attorneys have regularly practiced in

state and federal trial and appellate courts.

## **OUR ATTORNEYS**

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**JAY EDELSON** is the founder and Managing Partner of EDELSON MCGUIRE. He has been recognized as a leader in class actions, technology law, corporate compliance issues and consumer advocacy by his peers, the media, state and federal legislators, academia and courts throughout the country.

Jay has been appointed lead counsel in numerous state, federal, and international class actions, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars for his clients. He is regularly asked to weigh in on federal and state legislation involving his cases. He testified to the U.S. Senate about the largest pet food recall in the country's history and is advising state and federal politicians on consumer issues relating to the recent federal bailouts, as well as technology issues, such as those involving mobile marketing. Jay also counsels companies on legal compliance and legislative issues in addition to handling all types of complex commercial litigation.

Jay has litigated class actions that have established precedent concerning the ownership rights of domain name registrants, the applicability of consumer protection statutes to Internet businesses, and the interpretation of numerous other state and federal statutes including the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and the Video Privacy Protection Act. As lead counsel, he has also secured settlement in cases of first impression involving Facebook, Microsoft, AT&T and countless others, collectively worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

In addition to technology based litigation, Jay has been involved in a number of high-profile "mass tort" class actions and product recall cases, including cases against Menu Foods for selling contaminated pet food, a \$30 million class action settlement involving the Thomas the Tank toy train recall, and suits involving damages arising from second-hand smoke.

In 2009, Jay was named one of the top 40 Illinois attorneys under 40 by the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. In giving Jay that award, he was heralded for his history of bringing and winning landmark cases and for his "reputation for integrity" in the "rough and tumble class action arena." In the same award, he was called "one of the best in the country" when it "comes to legal strategy and execution." Also in 2009, Jay was included in the American Bar Association's "24 hours of Legal Rebels" program, where he was dubbed one of "the most creative minds in the legal profession" for his views of associate training and firm management. In 2010, he was presented with the Annual Humanitarian Award in recognition of his "personal integrity, professional achievements, and charitable contributions" by the Hope Presbyterian Church. In 2011, he was selected as an Illinois Super Lawyer and, separately, as a top Illinois class action lawyer by Benchmark Plaintiff.

Jay is frequently asked to participate in legal seminars and discussions regarding the cases he is prosecuting, including serving as panelist on national symposium on tort reform and, separately, serving as a panelist on litigating high-profile cases. He has also appeared on dozens of television and radio programs to discuss his cases. He has taught classes on class action law at

Northwestern Law School and The John Marshall Law School, and has co-chaired a 2-day national symposium on class action issues. He has been an adjunct professor, teaching a seminar on class action litigation at Chicago-Kent College of Law since 2010.

Jay is a graduate of Brandeis University and the University of Michigan Law School.

**MYLES MCGUIRE** is a Partner at EDELSON MCGUIRE. His practice concentrates on consumer protection law, class actions, and legal and political consulting to technology companies. Prior to entering private practice, Myles spent several years operating an Internet advertising company, which was later sold, in addition to counseling high-tech companies on legal issues.

Since turning to plaintiffs' advocacy, Myles has had principle control over many nationwide and multi-state class actions. Drawing on his technological background, his specific area of emphasis is on emerging technology class actions, including those involving electronic commerce, cellular telephony and wireless media, among others. He has served in leadership positions in groundbreaking settlements involving Facebook, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile.

Due to his diverse legal and business expertise, Myles has been asked by members of Congress to comment on proposed legislation in the mobile content industry and has worked with state regulatory bodies in related efforts.

Myles graduated from Marquette University Law School in 2000 and is admitted to practice in Wisconsin and Illinois. He is a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and the Chicago Bar Association.

**RYAN D. ANDREWS** is a Partner at EDELSON MCGUIRE, and the Chair of the Telecommunications Practice Group. Mr. Andrews has been appointed class counsel in numerous state and federal class actions nationwide that have resulted in nearly \$100 million dollars in refunds to consumers, including *Satterfield v. Simon & Schuster, Inc.*, No. C 06 2893 CW (N.D. Cal.), *Gray v. Mobile Messenger Americas, Inc.*, No. 08-CV-61089 (S.D. Fla.), *Lofton v. Bank of America Corp.*, No. 07-5892 (N.D. Cal.), *Paluzzi v. Cellco Partnership*, No. 07 CH 37213 (Cook County, Ill.), *Parone v. m-Qube, Inc.* No. 08 CH 15834 (Cook County, Ill.), and *Kramer v. Autobyte, Inc.*, No. 10-cv-2722 (N.D. Cal. 2010).

In addition, Mr. Andrews has achieved groundbreaking court decisions protecting consumers through the application of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act to emerging text-messaging technology. Representative reported decisions include: *Lozano v. Twentieth Century Fox*, 702 F. Supp. 2d 999 (N.D. Ill. 2010), *Satterfield v. Simon & Schuster, Inc.* 569 F.3d 946 (9th Cir. 2009), and *Kramer v. Autobyte, Inc.*, 759 F. Supp. 2d 1165 (N.D. Cal. 2010), *In re Jiffy Lube Int'l Text Spam Litig.*, --- F. Supp. 2d ---, No. 11-md-2261, 2012 WL 762888 (S.D. Cal. March 9, 2012).

Mr. Andrews received his J.D. with High Honors from the Chicago-Kent College of Law and was named Order of the Coif. Recently, Mr. Andrews has returned to Chicago-Kent as an Adjunct Professor of Law, teaching a third-year seminar on Class Actions. While in law school, Mr. Andrews was a Notes & Comments Editor for The Chicago-Kent Law Review, as well as a teaching assistant for both Property Law and Legal Writing courses. Mr. Andrews externed for the Honorable Joan B. Gottschall in the United State District Court for the Northern District of

Illinois, and earned CALI awards for the highest grade in five classes.

A native of the Detroit area, Mr. Andrews graduated from the University of Michigan, earning his B.A., with distinction, in Political Science and Communications.

Mr. Andrews is licensed to practice in Illinois state courts, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

**RAFEY S. BALABANIAN** is a Partner and Group Chair at EDELSON MCGUIRE. Rafey focuses his practice on prosecuting consumer technology class actions, banking class actions, and general consumer class actions. He is also co-chair of EDELSON MCGUIRE's business litigation group.

On the plaintiff's side, Rafey has been the court appointed lead counsel in numerous high-stakes class action litigation and has obtained settlements in excess of \$50 million.

On the business litigation side, Rafey has represented individual and corporate clients in a wide variety of complex cases, including commercial disputes seeking damages of \$60 million and several "bet the company" cases.

Rafey has first-chaired both jury and bench trials, engaged in extensive motion practice, and acted as lead counsel in several mediations and arbitrations.

Rafey received his J.D. from the DePaul University College of Law in 2005. While in law school, Rafey received a certificate in international and comparative law and earned the CALI award for the highest grade in advanced trial advocacy. Rafey received his B.A. in History, *with distinction*, from the University of Colorado – Boulder in 2002.

**STEVEN LEZELL WOODROW** is a Partner and Group Chair at EDELSON MCGUIRE and the firm's hiring attorney. Steven has successfully litigated and settled a number of consumer protection cases through trial, engaged in extensive motion practice, drafted appellate briefs, prosecuted class actions and participated in multi-session mediations.

Prior to joining the firm, Steven was a litigator at a Chicago boutique focusing on consumer protection matters, real estate disputes, fraudulent transfers in bankruptcy and the prosecution of white-knight mortgage fraud cases.

Steven received his J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law with High Honors, *Order of Coif*, while earning his certificate in litigation and alternative dispute resolution. During law school, he served as a Judicial Extern for the Honorable Ann C. Williams on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and as President of the Student Bar Association. Steven also served as a Notes and Comments Editor for THE CHICAGO-KENT LAW REVIEW and represented Chicago-Kent at the National Sports Law Moot Court Competition in New Orleans in 2004. Steven was awarded the ABA-ALI Scholarship and Leadership Award for best representing the combination of leadership and scholarship in his graduating class and also received the Lowell H. Jacobson Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded competitively to a student from one of the law schools in the Seventh Circuit to recognize personal commitment and achievement.

Steven received his B.A. in Political Science, *with Distinction*, from the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor in 2002.

**SEAN P. REIS** is Of Counsel to EDELSON MCGUIRE. Sean is an experienced trial attorney and business litigator. Sean has experience in a wide-range of litigation matters, including those involving trade secrets, real estate fraud, employment, and consumer issues. Sean has tried sixteen cases, including several multi-week jury trials.

Prior to joining EDELSON MCGUIRE, Sean was trained at an international law firm and later founded his own practice. In 1993, Sean graduated from University of California at San Diego with a degree in quantitative economics. Following that Sean graduated from Rutgers University School of Law, Newark, where he was the business editor of the Rutgers Law Review and where he received the graduation for appellate advocacy.

**EVAN M. MEYERS** is Senior Counsel at EDELSON MCGUIRE. Evan is an experienced trial and appellate litigator and has handled a broad range of complex litigation matters, including contract disputes, securities and consumer fraud, employment discrimination, insurance coverage, antitrust, shareholder and tax disputes, business torts and other matters. Evan has managed all aspects of the litigation process, including evaluation and strategic analysis, drafting pleadings in state and federal trial and appellate courts, taking and defending depositions, arguing motions, and representing clients in mediations and settlement conferences. He has also successfully tried cases in state court.

Prior to joining EDELSON MCGUIRE, Evan worked at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, where he was an associate in the firm's commercial litigation practice group and represented a wide range of clients in federal and state courts, including manufacturers, insurance and financial services companies, government agencies, close corporations, hospitals, colleges and universities and not-for-profit entities.

Evan received his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2002, where he was an associate editor of the Elder Law Journal. Additionally, he served as a judicial extern with the Hon. Wayne R. Andersen of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Evan received his bachelor's degree, with distinction, in political science from the University of Michigan in 1999.

**DAVID DALE** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE, where he focuses on plaintiff's privacy class actions and litigation.

David received his J.D., magna cum laude, from the John Marshall School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review, Trial Advocacy Council, and a Teaching Assistant for Prof. Rogelio Lasso in several torts courses. While in law school, David served as a judicial extern to the Honorable James F. Holderman, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

David attended the University of Missouri, where he graduated with a B.J. in Journalism in 2004. Prior to choosing law school, David worked in the fields of marketing, advertising and public relations for the University of Missouri.

**CHRISTOPHER L. DORE** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE and a member of the Technology and Privacy Practice Group. Chris focuses his practice on emerging consumer technology issues, as well as prosecuting unsolicited text message and online fraud cases.

Chris has been appointed class counsel in multiple class actions, including ground breaking technology, text-spam, and fraudulent marketing cases. (Turner v. Storm8, LLC, (09-cv-05234) (N.D. Cal.) and Espinal v Burger King Corporation, (09-20982) (S.D. Fla.)).

Prior to joining EDELSON MCGUIRE, Chris worked for two large defense firms in the areas of employment and products liability.

Chris graduated magna cum laude from The John Marshall Law School, where he served as the Executive Lead Articles for the Law Review, as well as a team member for the D.M. Harish International Moot Court Competition in Mumbai, India. Chris has since returned to his alma mater to lecture on current issues in class action litigation.

Before entering law school, Chris received his Masters degree in Legal Sociology, graduating magna cum laude from the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, located in Onati, Spain. Chris received his B.A. in Legal Sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**CHANDLER GIVENS** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE, where his practice focuses on technology and privacy class actions. His lawsuits have centered on fraudulent software development, unlawful tracking of consumers through mobile devices and computers, and illegal data retention.

Chandler graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. While in law school, he was a research assistant for Cyberlaw Professor Dr. Kevin Ashley, and a judicial extern for the Honorable David S. Cercone of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Chandler received CALI awards for the highest course grades in Negotiations as well as Telecommunications Law. He graduated *cum laude* from Virginia Tech, with a B.S. in business information technology, with a focus on computer-based decision support systems. Chandler sits on the ABA committees for Information Security and e-Discovery.

Before joining the legal profession, Chandler worked as a systems analyst. He is regularly invited to speak on issues ranging from network security to consumer privacy and Internet fraud. Chandler currently leads a team of technology investigative researchers at the firm.

Prior to starting with the firm, Chandler interned at the Virginia Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

**ALICIA HWANG** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE. Alicia practices in the area of consumer class action and general litigation.

Alicia received her J.D. from the Northwestern University School of Law in May 2012, where she was an articles editor for the Journal of Law and Social Policy. During law school, Alicia was a legal intern for the Chinese American Service League, served as president of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, and was Chair of the Student Services Committee. She also worked as a student in the Northwestern Entrepreneurship Law Clinic and Complex Civil Litigation and Investor Protection Clinic.

Prior to joining EDELSON MCGUIRE, Alicia worked as an Executive Team Leader for the Target Corporation, as well as a public relations intern for a tourism-marketing agency in London.

Alicia graduated magna cum laude from the University of Southern California, earning her B.A. in Communication in 2007. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

**NICK LARRY** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE. Nick practices in the area of consumer class action and general litigation.

Nick received his J.D., cum laude, from Northwestern University School of Law, where he was a senior editor of the Northwestern University Journal of International Law and Business.

Nick attended Michigan State University, where he graduated with a B.A. in General Business Administration/Pre-law in 2008 and played on the school's rugby team.

**MEGAN LINDSEY** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE. Megan practices in the area of consumer class action, focusing on complex class actions in the banking industry.

Prior to joining EDELSON MCGUIRE, Megan worked for several years as a commercial loan underwriter and portfolio officer at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith. Megan also worked as an analyst in the troubled asset group at Bank of America, helping to monitor and restructure high-risk loans.

Megan received her J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law in May 2011. During law school Megan externed for the Honorable Judge Bauer in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and served as Vice President-Evening Division of the Student Bar Association and Vice President of the Moot Court Honor Society. Megan also represented Chicago-Kent at the National First Amendment Moot Court Competition in Nashville, Tennessee and the National Cultural Heritage Law Moot Court Competition in Chicago, Illinois, and earned the CALI award for obtaining the highest grade in Legal Writing I, Legal Writing II and Trial Advocacy II courses.

Megan graduated with High Honors from DePaul University in July 2005, earning her B.S. in Finance.

**DAVID I. MINDELL** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE. David practices in the area of technology and privacy class actions.

David has worked on cases involving fraudulent software products, unlawful collection and retention of consumer data, and mobile-device privacy violations. David also serves as a business consultant to private companies at all stages of development, from start-up to exit.

Prior to joining EDELSON MCGUIRE, David co-founded several technology companies that reached multi-million dollar valuations within 12 months of launch. David has advised or created strategic development and exit plans for a variety of other technology companies.

While in law school, David was a research assistant for University of Chicago Law School Kauffman and Bigelow Fellow, Matthew Tokson, and for the predominate cyber-security professor, Hank Perritt at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. David's research included cyberattack and denial of service vulnerabilities of the Internet, intellectual property rights, and privacy issues.

David has given speeches related to his research to a wide-range of audiences.

**JOHN OCHOA** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE. John's practice focuses on consumer class action litigation.

John graduated *magna cum laude* from the John Marshall Law School in May, 2010 and served as Managing Editor for the John Marshall Law Review. His student Comment, which examines bicycling and government tort immunity in Illinois, appears in Vol. 43, No. 1 of the JOHN MARSHALL LAW REVIEW. While in law school, John took advantage of various scholastic opportunities, serving as a research assistant, externing with Judge Thomas Hoffman at the Illinois Court of Appeals, and competing in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition. John was awarded a Herzog scholarship for his academic performance and earned CALI awards for the highest grade in Torts, Property, and Administrative Law.

He received his B.A. with Honors in Political Science from the University of Iowa in 2004.

**EVE-LYNN RAPP** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE. Eve-Lynn focuses her practice in the areas of consumer and technology class action litigation.

Prior to joining EDELSON MCGUIRE, Eve-Lynn was involved in numerous class action cases in the areas of consumer and securities fraud, debt collection abuses and public interest litigation. Eve-Lynn has substantial experience in both state and federal courts, including successfully briefing issues in both the United States and Illinois Supreme Courts.

Eve-Lynn received her J.D. from Loyola University of Chicago-School of Law, graduating cum laude, with a Certificate in Trial Advocacy. During law school, Eve-Lynn was an Associate Editor of Loyola's International Law Review and externed as a "711" at both the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and for Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin. Eve-Lynn also clerked for both civil and criminal judges (The Honorable Judge Yvonne Lewis and Plummer Lott) in the Supreme Court of New York.

Eve-Lynn graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, with distinction and Phi Beta Kappa honors, receiving a B.A. in Political Science.

**BENJAMIN H. RICHMAN** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE and is a member of the firm's Corporate Governance and Business Litigation Practice Group. He handles plaintiff's-side

consumer class actions, focusing mainly on technology-related cases, represents corporate defendants in class actions, and handles general commercial litigation matters.

On the plaintiff's side, Ben has brought industry-changing lawsuits involving the marketing practices of the mobile industry, print and online direct advertisers, and Internet companies. He has successfully prosecuted cases involving privacy claims and the negligent storage of consumer data. His suits have also uncovered complex fraudulent methodologies of Web 2.0 companies, including the use of automated bots to distort the value of consumer goods and services. In total, his suits have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars to consumers.

On the defense side, Ben has represented large institutional lenders in the defense of employment class actions. He also routinely represents technology companies in a wide variety of both class action defense and general commercial litigation matters.

Ben received his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School, where he was an Executive Editor of the Law Review and earned a Certificate in Trial Advocacy. While in law school, Ben served as a judicial extern to the Honorable John W. Darrah of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, in addition to acting as a teaching assistant for Prof. Rogelio Lasso in several torts courses. Ben has since returned to the classroom as a guest-lecturer on issues related to class actions, complex litigation and negotiation. He also lectures incoming law students on the core first year curriculums. Before entering law school, Ben graduated from Colorado State University with a B.S. in Psychology.

Ben is the director of EDELSON MCGUIRE'S Summer Associate Program.

**ARI J. SCHARG** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE. He handles all aspects of litigation from pre-filing investigation through trial. In addition to class action litigation, Ari has substantial experience litigating commercial, real estate, employment, and constitutional matters. He also counsels entrepreneurs and works closely with startup companies to manage risk and raise capital.

Prior to joining the firm, Ari worked as a litigation associate at a large Chicago firm, where he represented a wide range of clients including Fortune 500 companies and local municipalities. His work included representing the Cook County Sheriff's Office in several civil rights cases and he was part of the litigation team that forced Craigslist to remove its "Adult Services" section from its website. He also regularly tries his cases before judges and juries, including a trial that spanned six months.

Ari is very active in community groups and legal industry associations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Legal Clinic, an organization that provides legal services to low-income families in the Chicago area. Ari acts as Outreach Chair of the Young Adult Division of American Committee for the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, and is actively involved with the Anti-Defamation League. He is also a member of the Standard Club Associates Committee.

Ari received his B.A. in Sociology from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor and graduated magna cum laude from The John Marshall Law School where he served as a Staff Editor for Law Review and competed nationally in trial competitions. During law school, he also served as a

judicial extern to The Honorable Judge Bruce W. Black of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

**IRINA SLAVINA** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE focusing on consumer class actions. As a Russian attorney, Irina obtained her LL.M degree in International and Comparative Law, with High Honors, from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2003. Since that time Irina has had a unique legal career in the United States that started in a boutique law office in Chicago and progressed to the legal department of a major gaming and entertainment company on the east coast.

While working in-house with General Counsel, Irina gained extensive experience in drafting and negotiating company contracts and addressing the day-to-day legal inquiries of management. Irina handled patrons' liability claims, worked with state and local government officials in obtaining and renewing company licenses, and assisted with all aspects of corporate governance and compliance.

Irina earned her J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law with High Honors, Order of Coif, in 2009. While in law school, Irina represented Chicago-Kent in the McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition. Irina was also a member of the Chicago-Kent Law Review, and her student note on the issue of a casino liability to problem gamblers was published in the March 2010 issue, 85 Chi.-Kent L. Rev. 369. Irina externed for the Honorable Susan E. Cox in the Northern District of Illinois, and earned the CALI award for obtaining the highest grade in Constitutional Law, Evidence, and Legal Writing III courses.

**BEN THOMASSEN** is an Associate at EDELSON MCGUIRE and is a member of the Banking and Financial Services Practice Group.

Ben received his J.D., magna cum laude, from Chicago-Kent College of Law, where he also earned his certificate in Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution and was named Order of the Coif. At Chicago-Kent, Ben was Vice President of the Moot Court Honor Society and competed in both the ABA National Appellate Advocacy and National Moot Court Competitions. Among other scholarships and awards, Ben earned seven CALI awards for the highest grade in Appellate Advocacy, Business Organizations, Conflict of Laws, Family Law, Personal Income Tax, Property, and Torts.

Before his legal career, Ben worked in and around the Chicago and Washington, D.C. areas, including freelance and firm-based work as a website designer/developer, and many years experience as a film projectionist and media technician for commercial theatres, museums, and educational institutions. Ben received his Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, from St. Mary's College of Maryland and his Master of Arts from the University of Chicago.